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June 18, 1999

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/266,935; Filed: March 12, 1999
For: **Compositions and Methods for Enhanced Synthesis of Nucleic Acid
Molecules**
Inventors: LI *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.4560001/RWE/BJD

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (*in duplicate*);
2. Form PTO-1449 (12 pages), citing 44 references;
3. One copy of each of the 44 references; and
4. One return post card

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
June 18, 1999
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Brian J. Del Buono
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 42,473

RWE/BJD/dmb
Enclosures



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

LI *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/266,935

Filed: March 12, 1999

For: **Compositions and Methods for
Enhanced Synthesis of Nucleic
Acid Molecules**

Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Atty. Docket: 0942.4560001/RWE/BJD

Information Disclosure Statement

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. A copy of each of these documents is provided.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3), Applicants' undersigned representative submits the following concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language documents, Ref. Nos. AM1, AN1, and AR7, cited on the accompanying form PTO-1449:

Reference AM1, German Patent Office Publication No. 44 11 588 C1, is in the German language. This document appears to relate to betaine-containing buffers that can be used in reactions catalyzed by DNA- and RNA-polymerases, including PCR amplification of HLA histocompatibility antigens and reverse transcription of mRNA. A copy of the abstract of this publication in the English language (from Derwent WPI) is included herewith as Ref. No. AS12.

Reference AN1, German Patent Office Publication No. 44 11 594 C1, is in the German language. This document appears to relate to kits for detecting HLA alleles by PCR amplification,

using buffers containing betaine. A copy of the abstract of this publication in the English language (from Derwent WPI) is included herewith as Ref. No. AT12.

Reference AR7, Kondakova *et al.*, *Molekulyarnaya Biologiya* 9:742-746 (1975), is in the Russian language. This document appears to relate to investigations of the interaction of DNA with certain low molecular weight amines, and the effects of such amines on the structural stability and conformation of DNA molecules. A full-text translation of this document in the English language is included herewith as Ref. No. AS7.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will consider information that had been cited or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application relied on under 35 U.S.C. § 120. 1138 OG 37, 38 (May 19, 1992).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No statement or fee is required.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and to indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this pleading is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Brian J. Del Buono
Agent for Applicants
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Date: June 18, 1999

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